



SCIENCE

FOR FAMILIES

YOU ARE your child's first teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Oklahoma's academic standards and why they are important for your child. Please be in regular communication with your child's teachers and ask how you can support science learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic excellence!

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

What to expect:

Science learning is particularly important in Pre-K because at this age, children have a natural curiosity about the world around them and a willingness to learn and be taught.

Children in Pre-K should be encouraged to make observations and describe how they are interacting with their surroundings. Provide positive responses when they say things like "A plastic spoon feels different than a metal spoon," "I am warmer when I put on a coat" and "A puddle splashes when I jump in it."

This information is a snapshot of learning in Pre-K science. For a complete set of science academic standards, click [here](https://sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards) or visit sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards.

By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Express curiosity about the natural environment through observation and active play.
- Begin to participate in simple investigations like predicting what might happen next and testing observations.
- Start putting items that are important in a child's world (toys, pets and foods, for example) into categories based on observable features.
- Talk about major features of the earth's surface (streams, hills, etc.) found in your daily natural environment.

What to do at home:

- Ask questions about the things your child is interested in and what he or she observes about the world.
- Describe where to find familiar plants and animals in your neighborhood or area.
- Talk about things your child observes about the different seasons.
- Encourage questions and make time for problem-solving to help your child find answers to questions.



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Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and motivated to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity contributes to success in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home. Play is a wonderful way to nurture curiosity in young children, so be sure to allow plenty of playtime. Encourage your child to ask questions, discover answers and explore the world.

Cultivate your child's curiosity with guiding questions like these:

- When you look around, do you see things that are alike or different?
- What do you see when you look outside?
- What do you like to do?

Your child will have plenty of questions. It's okay if you don't have the answer every time. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

Fostering Communication

Increase vocabulary, thinking skills and curiosity by using new words and having conversations that include questions that make your child think. Communicating with others gives children a chance to see and understand that there can be more than one idea on a given subject. Accepting these different ideas helps children learn how to get along with others. This acceptance fosters positive relationships with peers and strong self-image.

Cultivate your child's communication skills with questions like these:

- What fruit would you like to eat for lunch?
- Do you think you will need a jacket today?
- What was your favorite part of the day and why?
- How did you help someone today?

Fostering Comprehension

It is important to give young children the opportunity to explore books. As you sit down to read together, encourage your child to flip through the pages and discuss what he or she sees. Use the following questions as a guide as you talk about the books you are reading together.

BEFORE READING

- What do you see on the cover?
- What do you think the book will be about?

DURING READING

- Who is in the book?
- What has happened so far?

AFTER READING

- Did you like reading this book? Why or why not?
- What was your favorite part of the book?

Join the conversation!
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